(c) The salient features of National Policy for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and the National Blood Policy are as under:—

(i) To realfirm Government's commitment for prevention and control of HIV infection and reduce its social impact.

(ii) To generate a feeling of ownership among all the participants, both in the Government and civil society, by treating it as a developmental issue and not merely as a public health programme.

(iii) To promote an enabling social environment for prevention of HIV/AIDS and for providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS by protecting their human rights including right to access health care system, right to education, employment and privacy.

(iv) To enlarge community mobilisation by enlisting support of a large number of NGOs and community-based Organisations.

(v) To prevent women, children and other socially vulnerable groups from becoming infected by HIV/AIDS by improving health education, legal status and economic prospects.

(vi) To promote better understanding of HIV infection among young people, especially students, by educational programmes, aimed at adopting safe behavioural practices.

(vii) To bring horizontal integration with other national programmes like Reproductive and Child Health, TB Control, Integrated Child Development and primary health care system.

(viii) To ensure availability of adequate and safe blood and blood products for the general population through promotion of voluntary blood donation and rational use of blood.

(d) The programme for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS is in operation for the last ten years which includes the various initiatives stated in the policy document.

WHO funding for TB research projects

4100. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is expecting liberal funding from the World Health Organisation towards tuberculosis research projects;

(b) if so, the total amount that WHO has agreed to provide;

(c) whether his Ministry is also to receive its share of global fund set apart to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria;

(d) whether about 20,000 Indians are infected by the disease daily; and

(e) if so, whether any concrete programme of action plan is being considered by Government to implement these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) World Health Organisation (WHO) is not providing liberal funding to the Union Health Ministry towards TB research projects. However, WHO is supporting research activities at the TB Research Centre, Chennai which is a WHO collaborating centre.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) has approved three year funding of RNTCP implementation in the three new States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. Formal communication is awaited.

(d) Yes, Sir. About 20,000 Indians are infected by the TB bacillus everyday. However, all the infected people do not develop disease, only 10% of those infected are likely to develop TB disease during their life time.

(e) to achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) using WHO recommended DOTS Strategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. Presently about 460 million population has been covered under the revised strategy. It is envisaged to cover a population of 800 million by the year 2004 and the entire country by year 2005. Under the programme, 100% requirement of anti TB drugs and Binocular Microscopes for quality diagnosis are provided as commodity grant by the Centre to the districts. For undertaking various activities for implementation of RNTCP, cash assistance as grants-in-aid is released to the State/District TB Societies. The progress of the programme is rigorously monitored through quarterly performance reports from the project districts and supervisory visits by the officers from the State Governments and the Central Government.